

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method for using a sales machine for selling public transportation tickets, the method comprising:

providing a sales machine configured for selling the public transportation tickets, the sales machine being configured to facilitate purchase of goods and/or services by a customer against payment of a document as cash in the form of banknotes, or vouchers;

providing the sales machine with a verification unit, wherein the verification unit is configured for authenticating documents;

providing the sales machine with an intermediate storage configured to maintain documents accepted until the amount of the documents maintained in the intermediate storage corresponds to or exceeds the amount of the ticket;

feeding the document to the verification unit by means of an input unit containing an opening into which the document can be inserted individually and consecutively;

authenticating the document by performing a combination of at least two different verification methods;

comparing results of the at least two verification methods with verification specifications;

determining a probability of authenticity of the document based on predetermined criteria;

releasing the document for further processing, the further processing comprising:

when the probability meets the predetermined criteria, accepting the document as positively authenticated and maintaining the document in the intermediate storage until the amount of the documents maintained in the intermediate storage corresponds to or exceeds the amount of the ticket; or

when the probability does not meet the predetermined criteria and the ~~documents~~ document is negatively authenticated, recording the document as an image and presenting the image to an operator for visual verification by the operator, wherein

either the document is accepted when the document has passed the operator's visual verification and the document is maintained in the intermediate storage,

or

the document is refused when the document does not pass the operator's visual verification, wherein the refused document is either fed to a separate storage device for invalid documents or the refused document is ejected.

2. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the at least two verification methods are selected from the group comprising size verification, magnetic verification, image verification, infrared verification, UV verification, and visual verification.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the visual verification is performed only on documents of a desired value.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the visual verification method is performed as via direct visual authentication of the image of the document.
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the operator consists of an entity other than the customer.
10. (currently amended) Method for using a sales machine for selling public transportation tickets, the method comprising:
 - providing a sales machine configured for selling the public transportation tickets, the sales machine being configured to facilitate purchase of goods and/or services by a customer against payment of a document as cash in the form of banknotes or vouchers;
 - providing the sales machine with a verification unit, wherein the verification unit is configured for authenticating the documents;
 - providing the sales machine with a storage for positively authenticated documents;
 - feeding the document to the verification unit by means of an input unit containing an opening into which the document can be inserted individually and consecutively;
 - authenticating the document by performing a combination of at least two different verification methods;
 - comparing results of the at least two verification methods with verification specifications;

determining a probability of authenticity of the document based on predetermined criteria; and

releasing the document for further processing, the further processing comprising:

when the probability meets the predetermine criteria, accepting the document as positively authenticated and transporting the document in the storage for positively authenticated documents; or

when the probability does not meet the predetermine criteria and the document is negatively authenticated, recording the document as an image and presenting the image to an operator for visual verification by the operator, wherein

either the document is accepted when the document has passed the operator's visual verification and the document is transported in the storage for positively authenticated documents,

or

the document is refused when the document does not pass the operator's visual verification, wherein the refused document is either fed to a separate storage device for invalid documents or the refused document is ejected.

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein the at least two verification methods are selected from the group comprising size verification, magnetic verification, image verification, infrared verification, UV verification, and visual verification.

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein the visual verification is performed only on documents of a desired value.

13. (previously presented) Method according to claim 10, wherein the operator consists of an entity other than the customer.